West Chester to New York City

# Chester County, Pennsylvania Multiple Stamp Usages

1856 - 1896

*Date:* February 1, 1856

Rate: 3 Cents

**Chester County** WAS ONE OF THE THREE ORIGINAL COUNTIES OF PENNSYLVANIA CREATED BY WILLIAM PENN IN 1682. IT WAS NAMED FOR CHESHIRE, ENGLAND. ***Chester,*** PHILADELPHIA, AND BUCKS COUNTIES WERE THE THREE ORIGINAL PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES . AT THAT TIME CHESTER COUNTY'S BORDERS WERE PHILADELPHIA COUNTY TO THE NORTH, THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER TO THE WEST, THE DELAWARE RIVER TO THE EAST, AND DELAWARE AND MARYLAND TO THE SOUTH.

MULTIPLE POSTAL ADHESIVE USAGES FROM CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ARE BY AND LARGE DIFFICULT TO ACQUIRE, AS THEIR NUMBERS ARE NOMINAL. THIS EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS THE ROUTES, MARKINGS, RATES AND THEIR POSTAL SIGNIFICANCE WITH AN EFFORT TO PRESENT PERTINENT HISTORICAL INFORMATION ACCENTUATING THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THEIR USAGES. THE EXHIBIT IS ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY COVERING THE FOUR (4) PRIOR DECADES CONCLUDING IN 1896.

**Three one-cent blue imperforate Ben Franklins that were issued 1851 to 1857**

**Benjamin Franklin**
**(1706-1790)**

INITIAL U. S. POSTAGE STAMPS WERE ISSUED IN IMPERFORATE SHEETS CONTAINING TWO PANES OF 100 STAMPS EACH ON JULY 1, 1847. THE FIRST TWO ISSUES WERE THE 5 CENT BEN FRANKLIN AND THE 10 CENT GEORGE WASHINGTON. THIS ISSUE WAS DISCONTINUED IN 1851 AND NEW STAMPS INCLUDING THE 1 **CENT BLUE IMPERFORATE BEN FRANKLIN ABOVE** WERE ISSUED. ONLY THE **ONE-CENT**, THREE-CENT AND TWELVE-CENT STAMPS WERE ISSUED IN 1851. IMPERFORATE ISSUES REQUIRED THE SENDER TO SEPARATE THE INDIVIDUAL STAMPS BEFORE THEY COULD BE USED. MOST OF THESE EARLY IMPERFORATE ISSUES WERE POORLY TRIMMED FOR USE AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO FIND THEM ON COVER WITH FOUR GOOD BORDERS. DESIGNS OF THE 1851-1860 WERE PRINTED BY TOPPAN, CARPENTER, CASILEAR & COMPANY WITH DESIGNER: EDWARD PURCELL & ENGRAVER: JOSEPH PEASE

## HISTORICAL NOTES

**Ben Franklin** WAS THE ONLY PERSON TO SIGN ALL FOUR DOCUMENTS WHICH HELPED TO CREATE THE UNITED STATES: THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (1776), THE TREATY OF ALLIANCE, AMITY, AND COMMERCE WITH FRANCE (1778), THE TREATY OF PEACE BETWEEN ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND THE UNITED STATES (1782), AND THE U. S. CONSTITUTION (1787). ON **JULY 26, 1775** THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS APPOINTED FRANKLIN THE **FIRST POSTMASTER GENERAL** OF THE AMERICAN COLONIES. HE WAS 68 AT THE TIME. HE WAS HONORED ON THE **FIRST** US POSTAGE STAMP IN JULY OF 1847. THIS FIVE-CENT STAMP WAS GOOD FOR A SINGLE LETTER CARRIED LESS THAN 300 MILES.

**West Chester P. O.** OPENED SEPTEMBER 7, 1802 WITH MR. CROMWELL PIERCE THE FIRST POSTMASTER. EIGHTEEN (18) POST OFFICES HAVE MERGED INTO THIS P. O.: CLOUD (1881 – 1898); DILWORTHTOWN (1822 – 1903); EVERHART (1887 – 1899); GLEN LOCH (1869 – 1953); GOSHENVILLE (1828 – 1904); GREEN HILL (1891 –1919); GROVE (1832 – 1843); LENAPE (1870 – 1923); MARSHALLTOWN (1805 – 1901); MILLTOWN (1849 – 1899); MORSTEIN (1900 – 1940); NORTHBROOK (1871 – 1972); OAKBOURNE (1883 – 1928); OSNEY (1891 – 1891); SEAL (1888- 1901); THORNBURY (1831 –100); ZERMATT (1888- 1900); TO MORSTEIN; AND TALCOSE (1881 – 1891) TO OSNEY.